The Cotton Corporation of India Ltd. (CCI) is the designated agency to conduct MSP operations. The CCI was last required to conduct these operations in 1985-86 and, partly, in 1986-87.

Delay in Transporting Cargo from Inland Container Depot, Tugiakabad

2757. SHRI BHAGBAN MAJHI: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there has been a lot of delay in transporting cargo to sea ports from the Inland Container Depot (ICD) at Tugiakabad;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) the average transit time from ICD, Tugiakabad to key sea ports; and

(d) the steps taken to avoid such delay?

THE MINISTER OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI T.G. VENKATRAMAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) The average transit from ICD, Tugiakabad to the Key Sea Ports *viz.* Bombay Port and Jawaharlal Nehru Port during November, 1996 has been about 93 hrs. and 117 hrs. respectively. The average transit time from ICD, Tugiakabad to Madras Port was 167 hrs. in September, 1996. Due to cyclonic weather and unprecedented rains in the month of October and November, 1996, the train services to Madras Port were seriously disrupted.

(d) Attempts have been made by CONCOR and Indian Railways to run trains on scheduled paths. Locomotive deployment has been rationalised. Train examination systems have been streamlined. There is continuous monitoring of these trains by both CONCOR & Indian Railways.

Setting up cavitations Tunnel at the Naval science and technology Laboratory

2758. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether a Cavitation Tunnel at the Naval Science and Technology Laboratory in Visakhapatnam has been set up;

(b) if so, the speciality of the proposed hydrodynamie test facility; and

(c) the target for completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) No, Sir, However, the Government have already accorded sanction for setting up such a facility at the Naval Science and Technological Laboratory, Visakhapatnam.

(b) The Cavitation Tunnel is a part of marine hydro-dynamic test facility and will be used for generating data to predict hydrodynamic characteristics of marine platforms for validation of design.

(c) Setting up of the Cavitation Tunnel facility is planned to be completed by November 1999.

Allotment of Shops in Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place

2759. SHRI GHUFRAN AZAM: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representation from public, FPS owners and the Department of Food and Civil Supplies for allotment of Ground Floor shops in the Shaheed Bhagat Singh Place, Baird Lane, New Delhi;

(b) whether public at large are facing great difficulties in getting their food articles from FPSs which are located at the upper storeys;

(c) if so, whether Government propose to reconsider its decision and allot Ground Floor shops to FPS; and

(d) if so, by when and if not, the reasons therefore?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR): (a) and (b) The New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC) has reported that a request